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Today's News - November 28, 2005

ArcSpace brings us Holl in Denmark and Viñoly in North Carolina. - Sustainable reconstruction on the Gulf Coast is not a utopian dream. - Melbourne's "unruly citizens" are not happy with high-density developments in their 'burbs. – The editorial back-and-forth about Cork's urban design (or lack thereof) continues. – My Home: Our Place program to explore the future of housing and neighborhoods in northeast U.K. – American McMansions spreading like an alien weed. – Dubai is the "largest architectural experiment on earth." – Switzerland is "heaven, as built by architects." – Two (dare we say gushing) thumbs-up's for Hadid's new Phaeno Science Center in Germany. – An impressive civic project in San Jose - except for the egg in the middle. – Dublin's Parnell Square to become more people-friendly. – BBC's marriage made in architectural heaven going sour. – San Francisco's new Museum of the African Diaspora is a tapestry of humanity. – Modernism meets an old barn in the best of ways. – Bogus earthquake data scandal in Japan spreads (and closes down several new hotels). – Call for papers for sustainable development research conference - deadline draws near. – Book reviews: Sudjic and Jencks: are celebrity architects "visionaries or vassals?" – Antonelli's "Humble Masterpieces" a welcome departure from highbrow design.

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- Competition winner: Steven Holl Architects: Herning Center of the Arts, Herning, Denmark

-- Rafael Viñoly: Nasher Museum of Art, Duke University, Durham, North Carolina

Sustainable Gulf Reconstruction: ...Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), LEED and USGBC are all examples of voluntary approaches that aren't utopian, but practical and ready to go right now. By Tensie Whelan, Rainforest Alliance- Environmental News Network

Planners put wise to wide, open spaces: What are...unruly citizens doing? ...they are threatening to disrupt the Victorian Government's Melbourne 2030 development plan...a lot of the citizens who are supposed to put up with higher density development in their suburbs don't care for it at all.- The Age (Australia)

Right of Reply: Cork: a city I've always liked a lot . . . but poor urban design is having a negative impact on its fabric, says Frank McDonald- The Irish Times

My Home:Our Place - a six-month programme that will delve into the future of housing and neighbourhoods in the North East of England- Northern Architecture (U.K.)

Living Large: ...houses are growing from sea to shining sea, like some alien weed.- CBS

Sand and freedom: Dubai is trying to build itself a future as a great global city. In the process, it has become the largest architectural experiment on earth. -- Skidmore, Owings & Merrill; Atkins; Foster; Grimshaw; Hopkins- Guardian (UK)

Heaven, as built by architects: Where else would a building as mundane as a signal box be the work of Herzog & de Meuron...This is Switzerland, where architecture, and building, are taken seriously. By Edwin Heathcote- Financial Times (UK)

Science Center Celebrates an Industrial Cityscape: The new Phaeno Science Center in Germany, designed by Zaha Hadid, is the kind of building that utterly transforms our vision of the future. By Nicolai Ouroussoff [images]- New York Times

Zaha meets the Beetles: Zaha Hadid's first signature building - in Volkswagen's hometown - is genuinely revolutionary...Phaeno Science Centre...an astonishing, exhilarating concrete and steel vortex of a building... By Deyan Sudjic- Observer (UK)

Half-baked dome: Mayor's insistence on rotunda detracts from new San Jose City Hall...one of the world's best architects has laid a gigantic egg in the middle of what is otherwise an impressive civic home. By John King -- Richard Meier & Partners; Steinberg Architects [images] - San Francisco Chronicle

Revamp on the cards for Garden of Remembrance...at Parnell Square in Dublin's north inner city into a more people-friendly park...also to be made more accessible [to] Hugh Lane Gallery, which is undergoing a €12 million extension. -- Howley Harrington Architects; Gilroy McMahon Architects (gallery)- The Irish Times

Giles Worsley on why the BBC must keep faith with its bold architectural plans: It seemed a marriage made in heaven...the country's leading cultural force...declared an undying alliance with the cream of British architecture...Then it started to go sour. -- MacCormac Jamieson Prichard; David Chipperfield; Foreign Office Architects; Keppie Architects; Sheppard Robson; Allies and Morrison- Telegraph (UK)

Faces of Africa create a tapestry of all humanity. A new museum traces threads of the diaspora. -- Freelon Group; Sussman/Prejza & Co. [images]- San Francisco Chronicle

Life in the old barn yet: Simon Conder's modernism meets rural vernacular. By Hugh Pearman [images]- HughPearman.com (UK)

Scandal over bogus quake data spreads to Gunma -- Hidetsugu Aneha- Japan Times

Call for papers: 12th Annual International Sustainable Development Research Conference (Hong Kong, April 6-8, 2006); deadline: November 30, 2005- University of Hong Kong

How big names put their stamp on the skyline: Celebrity architects: visionaries or vassals? "The Edifice Complex: How the Rich and Powerful Shape the World" by Deyan Sudjic; "The Iconic Building" by Charles Jencks. By John King- San Francisco Chronicle

Pop Art: Bubble Wrap & Other Marvels: ...a neat new book from Paola Antonelli..."Humble Masterpieces"...a welcome departure from highbrow design. By Linda Hales- Washington Post

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